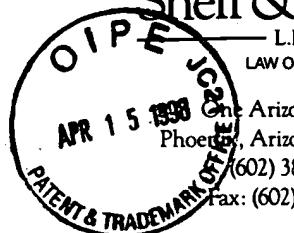


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April 7, 1998

Roxanne Rawls
O.I.P.E. Department
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/960,431
(Reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,605,499)
Title: *Flattening Method and Flattening Apparatus of a
Semiconductor Device*
Filed: 10/29/97; Group Art Unit 3616
Inventors: Misuo Sugiyama; Hatsuyuki Arai
Our Docket No. 30598.0004

Dear Ms. Rawls:

Enclosed per your request is the original Certificate under 37 CFR 3.73(b) which was executed on March 26, 1998 by Makoto Kouzuma, Vice President of SpeedFam Company Limited. A copy of this certificate was previously forwarded to you via facsimile on March 31, 1998.

Please contact me if anything further is necessary to advance prosecution of this application. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER



Troy M. Schmelzer

TMS:mea
Enclosure
485374.01

MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**> PTO/SB/86 (8-96)

Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0027
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant: Misuo Suqiyama and Hatsuyuki Arai

Application No.: 08/960,431 Filed: 29 October 1997

Entitled: FLATTENING METHOD AND FLATTENING APPARATUS OF A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

SpeedFam Company Limited, a corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

certifies that it is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of either:

A. An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application identified above. The assignment was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 7488, Frame 0045, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
2. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
3. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

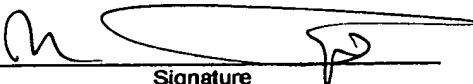
Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

The undersigned has reviewed all the documents in the chain of title of the patent application identified above and, to the best of undersigned's knowledge and belief, title is in the assignee identified above.

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is empowered to sign this certificate on behalf of the assignee.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

March 26, 1998
Date


Signature

Makoto Kouzuma

Typed or printed name

Vice President

Title

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.5 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. <